

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

LICHT.-GEN. A. PIERCE,
23, AUGUSTUS ROAD.

GLOUCESTER


Urban Sanitary Authority,

FOR 1877.

Presented to the Sanitary Committee of that body at the
Meeting held March 13th, 1878, and Ordered
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REPORT.

The Report which, as the Medical Officer of Health, I now present to the Gloucester Urban Sanitary Authority, for the year 1877, will, I trust, be considered satisfactory.

At the close of the period embraced in my last Report, Scarlet Fever was prevalent in this as in many other places. Its ravages continued through the first seven months of the last year, and 58 deaths, of which 41 occurred in children under 5 years of age, were registered in the district.

No death from Small Pox was recorded, and I know of only one patient who was attacked by that disease in the district. She was a young person who was received into the Hospital for Infectious Diseases, treated by me there, and discharged cured. There were also admitted during the past year four cases of scarlet fever, all of which progressed favourably. Although this is but a small number of patients treated in the Hospital, its usefulness was not confined to those who came into it. Each of these patients was a centre of infection, and their immediate removal from the houses which they occupied when attacked prevented that diffusion of disease which would probably have taken place had not such a Hospital been provided for their reception.

During the latter part of the year Measles and Whooping Cough have been prevalent. Of Measles there have been 28, and of Whooping Cough 26 fatal cases.

The number of deaths from Epidemic Diseases was considerably less than in the previous year, having been 150 in 1876, and 112 in 1877.

	1876.	1877.
Scarlet Fever ...	141	58
Whooping Cough ...	9	26
Measles ...	0	28
	<hr/> 150	<hr/> 112

The number of deaths from all causes was almost identical in the two last years, having been 734 in 1876 and 738 in 1877. The diminution in cases arising from Epidemic Disease was counterbalanced by the increase of deaths arising from diseases of the Circulatory and Respiratory Organs.

	1876.	1877.
Diseases of Organs of Circulation ...	40	61
" " Respiration ...	93	130
	<hr/> 133	<hr/> 191

During the past year 121 houses were erected in the district. Allowing the usual average of five inhabitants to every house, the increase of population has been about 605. That number added to 32,646, which I estimated as the population of the City at the close of 1876, makes 33,251, which is the probable number of inhabitants of the City of Gloucester. The death rate during the past year has been 22·05 per thousand. The average death rate throughout England was 20 per thousand.

I am informed by Mr. Small, your Surveyor, that during the last year 307 houses have been directly connected with the City sewers, and to nearly all of these the Corporation water has been laid on. But indirectly a much larger number have also been placed in communication with the main drains. In the process of laying down the new sewers

throughout the added parts of the district it frequently happened that old sewers, into which many houses (sometimes whole streets) drained, were picked up and taken into the general system. But few, if any, of these houses have taken the City water; and in the large majority of them there is but very inadequate, if any, provision made for washing away the sewage matter from the houses, or for clearing it away through the sewers into which the house drains are emptied. In order that it may be known what is the condition of all the houses within your district, and that we may ascertain the number of owners who have complied with the legal obligation to take the City water when junction with the City sewers is made, I propose, with the assistance of the Inspector, to lay before the Sanitary Committee, from time to time, reports containing particulars of the quantity and quality of the water supply to each house, whence it is obtained, whether from the City supply or from private wells, and also as to the drainage—whether it is into the general system of sewers, or (if not) as to how it is disposed of.

Water Supply.—The addition which has been made within the last few years to the area of the district, with a constantly increasing population, necessitates an increased supply of water. It has been calculated by Mr. Manserg, from data with which engineers are familiar, that a district with the number of houses which it contained two years ago under the control of this Authority requires a supply of water amounting to 750,000 gallons per day throughout the year. Mr. Manserg also considers that the present available supply from the Witcomb reservoirs and from Robin's Wood Hill can only be estimated at 540,000 gallons per day during a part of the year. During the summer of 1876 for more than a month the supply was

intermittent, as it was cut off for several hours of each day. Since that time many houses have been connected with the city water, and it is to be hoped and expected that connections with it will become universal. Unless these are made it will be impossible to keep the sewers clean, as it is only through the flushing from the different houses that sewage matter can be carried off. Unless the pipes connecting the houses with the sewers have a stream of water frequently running through them accumulations will be formed, and foul gas having been generated will arise, and the exhalations, which have caused great annoyance, and to which cases of illness have been, I fear, justly attributed during the past year, by their escape through the ventilating shafts, will again make their appearance. As a matter which may seriously affect the health of your district, I must again call the attention of this Authority, as I did in my last year's Report, to the deficiency which may be anticipated when the owners of houses have the city supply laid on to their property. Occupiers of houses are becoming more anxious to have the Corporation water as they are made aware of the fact that the water which is procured from existing wells is, in all parts of the city, contaminated with sewage matter. For drinking purposes, and for use in the sewers, it is necessary that the city water should be laid on to every house ; and when this is done, (and connections are now being constantly made) although there may be a sufficient quantity to afford an irregular, there cannot be a constant supply. It is a recognised fact amongst those who have devoted attention to sanitary matters that an intermittent supply is a source of danger, as the risk of pollution is increased.

The ventilating shafts to which I have alluded were during the past year causes of serious complaints. Your

Surveyor, Mr. Small, suggested the introduction of a pan of charcoal to each opening, to deoderize the gas evolved in the sewers before it escaped. This palliative plan did not remove the cause, which was the decomposition of accumulated sewage matter collected in some places in the old sewers, and still more in those picked up, as I have mentioned, in the new parts of the district. The removal and prevention of such accumulations can only be effected by the constant flow of water through the house drains. ~~It~~ It has been shewn during the past year that there have been collections of sewage matter in various places in the old city sewers, and it is also certain that a similar state of things is to be found in many of the picked up drains.

The Still Ditch.—This is a nuisance which has been under the consideration of the Authority, and I trust that shortly means will be taken to remove the causes of the offensive smells which constantly arise from it. Emptying into it is another frequent cause of complaint, which I have during the past year brought before the Sanitary Committee. Running along the side of the Bristol-road, at the extremity of the city, is a ditch receiving sewage matter, which is frequently very offensive. It forms a portion of the boundary of your district; and I trust that you may be able to induce the neighbouring Sanitary Authority to take concurrent action with you to abate what is, in hot weather, a serious nuisance.

Slaughter-houses.—Twice during the past year the Slaughter-houses were visited by Mr. Allen and myself: we found them all in a satisfactory condition.

Skin Depôts.—There are two places in the city, one in the Market and the other in New Inn Lane, where the skins of slaughtered animals are collected: they have been

visited twice a week during the warm weather by the Inspector, and frequently by him and myself at other periods during the past year.

Lodging Houses.—The licensed Lodging Houses have frequently been visited by the Inspector and myself. We have always found them clean, and the conditions as to number of beds in the rooms, whitewashing, &c., strictly adhered to.

Bake-houses.—I may also report that I have had no complaint to make of the state of the Bake-houses, which have also been visited by me accompanied by the Inspector.

Meat unfit for consumption.—In the month of November it was my duty to appear before the Magistrates to obtain an order for the destruction of a considerable quantity of bacon which was not in a fit state to be eaten, of which I had received information. The order was granted, and the bacon was destroyed by Mr. Lowe, the Inspector of Meat, who gave evidence in the case before the Magistrates.

Smoke Nuisance.—I have for the third time to mention to this Authority the constant breach of the Bye Laws (which has been going on for many years) committed by the owners of furnaces which do not consume their own smoke. Hardly a day passes in which there are not volumes of offensive and deleterious smoke poured for a longer or shorter period from some of the large works in the district.

Returns.—The tables of sickness which are appended to this Report are taken from the books of the Infirmary, the Children's Hospital, and those of the Medical Officers of the Union. Those relating to the deaths are compiled

from returns supplied to me by the Registrars, from whom I also receive the number of births registered during the year.

The work of visiting and inspecting the various parts of the district has been constantly carried on by the Inspector, Mr. Allen, and myself, and our Reports have been submitted to the Sanitary Committee of this Authority, at the meetings of that body. We have always endeavoured to discharge our duties in such a manner as to be as little disagreeable as possible to those to whom we have found it necessary to point out any matters which required alteration; and I am happy to be able to state that, with but very rare exceptions, our suggestions have been willingly and promptly carried out.

JOHN P. WILTON,

*Medical Officer of Health to the
Gloucester Urban Sanitary Authority.*

TABLE OF BIRTHS
REGISTERED IN THE URBAN DISTRICT.

	1876.	1877.
Males	785	644
Females	712	607
Totals	1497	1251

TABLE OF SICKNESS

Amongst Paupers belonging to the Urban District treated by the Medical Officers of the Union ; and of other persons *belonging to the district* treated as In or Out-Patients at the Gloucester General Infirmary, the Children's Hospital, and at the Hospital for Infectious Diseases.

	PAUPERS		IN-PATIENTS		OUT-PATIENTS	
	Under 5 years of age	Over 5 years of age	Under 5 years of age	Over 5 years of age	Under 5 years of age	Over 5 years of age
All Cases of Sickness & Injuries	108	710	30	372	384	1910
Measles	7	6	...	4	...	...
Small Pox .....	...	...	...	1	...	...
Scarlatina and Scarlet Fever...	12	9	...	4	3	...
Croup... ..	...	...	...	...	2	...
Whooping Cough.....	9	4	...	...	62	16
Enteric Fever .....	...	3	...	8	16	...
Others forms of Continued Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	6
Diarrhoea and Dysentery	12	24	3	1	45	11
Rheumatic Fever.....	...	9	...	7	...	...
Erysipelas .....	...	10	...	2	...	...
Ague .....	...	1	...	1	...	...
Phthisis .....	...	17	...	10	..	23
Bronchitis, Pleurisy and Pneumonia.....	30	102	2	7	18	42
Heart Disease .....	...	8	...	2	...	4
Injuries	2	37	9	115	42	452
Other Diseases	35	459	15	210	196	1356

TABLE OF DEATHS

WITHIN THE URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF GLOUCESTER IN 1877.

The arrangement is the same as that which I used in the Report for 1876, and was copied by me from that which had been adopted by Dr. WRIGHT, the Medical Officer of Health for Cheltenham, in the Report which he laid before the Sanitary Authority of that District.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	AGES AT DEATH.							SEXES.		
	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 20	20 and under 40	40 and under 60	60 and under 80	80 and above	Males	Femls.	Total.
Class I.—Zymotic Diseases.										
Order 1.—MIASMATIC DISEASES ...	32	78	24	9	3	3	...	70	79	149
Scarlet Fever (Scarlatina) ...	3	37	16	2	...	...	...	28	30	58
Croup ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Whooping Cough ...	9	16	...	1	...	...	...	13	13	26
Diphtheria ...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Measles... ..	10	17	1	...	...	...	...	8	20	28
Continued { Enteric Fever ...	...	2	3	2	1	1	...	5	4	9
{ Other or doubtful... ..	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	2	1	3
Erysipelas ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	2
Influenza ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1
Diarrhœa ...	8	3	...	...	1	...	...	6	6	12
Pyœmia... ..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Rheumatism ...	...	...	2	3	...	1	...	4	2	6
Order 2.—ENTHETIC ...	7	1	...	1	1	...	...	5	5	10
Syphilis ...	7	1	...	1	...	...	...	4	5	9
Stricture of Urethra ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1
Order 3.—DIETETIC ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
Intemperance... ..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
Class II.—Constitutional Diseases										
Order 1.—DIATHETIC ...	...	...	...	...	8	8	...	7	9	16
Dropsy ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1	2
Cancer ...	...	...	...	...	7	7	...	6	8	14
Order 2.—TUBERCULAR ...	11	13	12	24	13	5	...	42	36	78
Scrofula... ..	...	2	3	1	...	...	...	3	3	6
Morbus Coxæ ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
Tabes Mesenterica ...	9	5	...	...	...	1	...	10	5	15
Phthisis... ..	...	1	8	22	13	4	...	24	24	48
Hydrocephalus ...	2	5	1	...	...	...	...	5	3	8
Carried forward ...	50	92	36	35	25	16		124	130	254

TABLE OF DEATHS

WITHIN THE URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF GLOUCESTER IN 1877.

CONTINUED.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	AGES AT DEATH.							SEXES.		
	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 20	20 and under 40	40 and under 60	60 and under 80	80 and above	Males	Femls.	Total.
Brought forward ...	50	92	36	35	25	16	...	124	130	254
Class III.—Local Diseases.										
Order 1.—NERVOUS SYSTEM ...	27	10	3	9	14	27	3	54	39	93
Apoplexy ...	...	...	1	1	4	6	...	8	4	12
Paralysis ...	...	...	...	1	1	15	2	9	10	19
Epilepsy ...	...	...	...	4	4	...	...	7	1	8
Convulsions ...	26	8	...	...	...	...	...	18	16	34
Brain Disease...	1	2	1	3	4	5	1	11	6	17
Sunstroke ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1
Disease of Spinal Cord ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Tetanus ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1
Order 2.—ORGANS OF CIRCULATION ...	...	...	7	10	15	28	1	32	29	61
Heart Disease...	...	...	7	10	15	28	1	32	29	61
Order 3.—RESPIRATORY ORGANS ...	31	30	8	6	20	32	3	68	62	130
Laryngitis ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Bronchitis ...	17	14	3	...	4	21	3	32	30	62
Pleurisy ...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	2
Pneumonia ...	3	11	4	5	12	7	...	21	21	42
Asthma ...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	3	1	4
Congestion of Lungs ...	9	3	1	1	1	2	...	9	8	17
Lung Disease (other forms) ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Order 4.—DIGESTIVE ORGANS ...	1	1	1	4	15	7	1	19	11	30
Peritonitis ...	...	1	1	1	1	1	...	4	1	5
Enteritis ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
Ascites ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1
Hernia ...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	1	2
Disease of Bowels ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1
Internal Strangulation ...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2	...	2
Stomach Disease ...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	1	2
Liver Disease ...	1	...	...	2	8	5	...	9	7	16
Order 5.—URINARY ORGANS ...	1	...	...	2	5	5	...	11	2	13
Kidney Disease ...	1	...	...	...	3	...	...	4	...	4
Bright's Disease ...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	2	2	4
Disease of Bladder ...	...	...	...	1	1	3	...	5	...	5
Carried forward ...	110	133	55	66	94	115	8	308	273	581

TABLE OF DEATHS

WITHIN THE URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF GLOUCESTER IN 1877,
CONTINUED.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	AGES AT DEATH.							SEXES.		
	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 20	20 and under 40	40 and under 60	60 and under 80	80 and above	Males	Femls.	Total.
Brought forward	110	133	55	66	94	115	8	308	273	581
Class III.—Local Diseases (<i>Cont.</i>)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Order 6.—GENERATIVE ORGANS	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	...	4	4
Ovarian... ..	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	2
Uterine ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1
Menorrhagia ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
Order 7.—CONNECTED WITH PARTURITION)	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	4	4
Labour ... ..	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2	2
Extra Uterine Gestation ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
Puerperal Mania ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
Order 8.—ORGANS OF LOCOMOTION	3	...	4	1	...	...	...	3	5	8
Abscess	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	3	4
Diseased Femur ... ..	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Caries of Spine ... ..	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	1	2	3
Class IV.—Developmental Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Order 1.—DISEASES OF CHILDREN	49	3	...	...	...	...	...	30	22	52
Premature Birth	39	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	16	39
Teething	10	3	...	...	...	...	...	7	6	13
Order 2.—DISEASES OF AGED	...	...	...	...	...	22	19	20	21	41
Old Age ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	22	19	20	21	41
Order 3.—DISEASES OF NUTRITION	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	5	9
Atrophy... ..	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	5	9
Class V.—Violent Deaths, &c.	1	4	6	2	19	7	...	29	10	39
Burns ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	2
Accident ... ..	...	3	5	...	12	3	...	19	4	23
Found Drowned ... ..	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	2	...	2
Suicide ... ..	...	...	...	...	3	2	...	4	1	5
Sudden Death, cause not ascer- tained)	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	2	2	4
Causes not specified, or ill defined)	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	2	1	3
	172	140	65	73	117	144	27	394	344	738

TABLE OF INQUESTS

HELD IN THE

CITY OF GLOUCESTER DURING THE YEAR 1877.

For this Table I am indebted to the courtesy of Mr. Lovegrove, the Coroner for the City of Gloucester.

DATE	NAME OF DECEASED	AGE	VERDICT
1877.			
January 15	John Browning	52 years	Found drowned
" 16	John Blewitt	53 "	Accidental death
" "	Ellen Evans... ..	61 "	{ Accidentally burnt to death
" 22	Wm. Andrews Gurney	52 "	Accidental death
" 27	Charlotte Hackney ...	50 "	{ Accidentally burnt to death
" 27 & 29	James Manns	37 "	Accidental death
February 6	Henry Mayo... ..	19 "	Found drowned
" 13	Thomas Bennett... ..	58 "	Accidental death
" 21	Thomas Finch	67 "	Ditto ditto
" 27	Tom Yates	2 "	Ditto ditto
March 7	Charles James Baylis...	19 "	Ditto ditto
" 17	Edward Organ	22 "	Ditto ditto
" 21	Samuel Thomson	56 "	{ Injuries to the head by throwing him- self from an attic window
April 23	Peter Cetta	60 "	{ Strangulation--tem- porary Insanity
May 21	Samuel James Hogg ...	4 "	Accidental death
July 3	James Seymour	66 "	{ Drowned himself— temp. Insanity
" 20	Thomas Pallister... ..	36 "	{ Drowned himself— temp. Insanity
August 1	Joseph Mallard	35 "	Natural causes
" "	George Comber	27 "	Accidental death
" 13	Enoch Venn... ..	51 "	Natural causes
" "	Lydia Miller... ..	28 "	Accidental death
" 25	James Uzzle... ..	31 "	Ditto ditto
" "	Samuel Jackson	19 "	Ditto ditto
Sept. 8	Annie	33 (about)	{ Natural causes, acce- lerated by drinking
" 19	Sarah Tanner	70 years	Accidental death
" 25	Minet William Miles...	{ 3 months & 3 weeks	Natural causes
Octr. 18	Betsy Richer	5 years	Accidental death
" 24	Henry Walter Matthews	8 "	Ditto ditto
" 27	Thos. Charles Merchant	5 "	Ditto ditto
" 29	Cornelius Davis	49 "	Ditto ditto
Novr. 6	Jane Squibbs	74 "	Ditto ditto
" "	Samuel Lane	22 "	Ditto ditto
" 23	James Beekes	45 "	Ditto ditto
Decr. 4	Mary Ann Duggan ...	40 "	Temporary Insanity
" 18	Thomas Sinderbury ...	40 "	Accidental death
" "	Frederick Mills	{ 3 years & 2 months	Ditto ditto
" 27	Florence Brown	8 weeks	Natural causes

PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

During the year 1877 it was necessary for me to visit vessels, both at Sharpness and in the Canal, in which illness of a suspicious nature had appeared; but I am happy to say that I found no cases in which disease of an infectious nature had broken out. The Port has been very healthy during the past year.

JOHN P. WILTON,

*Medical Officer of Health to the
Port Sanitary Authority.*

